

Lakenheath shares community award with RAFM

By Lt. Col. Victor Warzinski
Third Air Force public affairs

The U.S. Ambassador to the Court of St. James, William J. Crowe, has commended a joint educational program conducted between British and American schools in East Suffolk.

He also presented individual achievement awards to two members of the community, in recognition of their efforts to foster better British-American relations.

In a ceremony at the ambassador's London residence April 17, Crowe presented his Special Achievement in Community Relations Award to the members of the Joint Base Schools Forum, an initiative that brings together education officials from RAF Mildenhall, RAF Lakenheath, and local British schools to discuss mutual concerns and foster better understanding between the different school systems.

The initiative was the idea of Jill Harrison, Head Teacher for Riverside Middle School in Mildenhall, and a member of RAF Mildenhall's British-American committee, and Steve Michael, Department of Defense Schools liaison officer.

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-- William Crowe
U.S. ambassador

"Jill Harrison's and Steve Michael's devotion to furthering understanding between the American and British communities, on the education front and others, single them out as true ambassadors to British-American relations, bringing the two cultures closer together," said Col. Christopher Kelly, 100th Air Refueling Wing commander.

"With almost 1,000 American family member children from both bases enrolled in local British schools, both British and American education communities have benefitted from the new forum," said Col. Larry Brough, 48th Support Group commander.

The ambassador presented Individual

Achievement in Community Relations awards to Margaret Fulham, the religious education coordinator for the RAF Lakenheath Chapel, and SrA. April Green, the program manager of RAF Mildenhall's Drug Awareness and Resistance Education program. Both award winners were recognized for their work on and off the base. Fulham, a British citizen, devotes much of her time to helping newly arriving American servicemembers.

"Mrs. Fulham is one of those people with boundless energy and a heart to match," Crowe said. "Very active with the Catholic Women of the Chapel, she invited countless newcomers to her home to introduce them to the warmth and friendship of Great Britain."

She also helps run a furniture warehouse for needy families in the area, and coordinates a young wives group in Mildenhall.

"She is a great human being and a 'best friend' to many Americans," said Col. Doug Richardson, 48th Fighter Wing commander. "She's like a grandmother to our children and many American families. If the Liberty Wing has a 'Fairy Godmother' looking out for us, Margaret Fulham would be it!"

AF clubs introduce nonmember surcharge

RANDOLPH AFB, Texas (AFNS) – Air Force clubs are implementing a new pricing initiative Monday called "Member Value Pricing."

The initiative creates value pricing for members and establishes a new policy requiring eligible nonmembers to pay a surcharge to use officers' and enlisted clubs if they are eligible for club membership, but decline to join.

"The 48th Services Squadron will be introducing other ways of adding value to club memberships throughout the summer months," said Lt. Col. Michael O'Dell, services squadron commander.

Value pricing

"Member Value Pricing is being implemented in clubs worldwide as one of several new and focused club initiatives to be introduced this year," explained Frank Black, chief of the Air Force Clubs Branch at the Air Force Services Agency in San Antonio.

"The goal is to re-establish the historic and traditional val-

ues of Air Force club membership by recognizing the singular distinctiveness of club membership," said Black.

"In the truest sense, by joining the club and paying membership dues each month, every club member is a loyal stockholder in his or her club and deserves continuing and tangible returns on their investment. Member Value Pricing helps us try to meet this goal." The fundamental rationale for the new nonmember policy is that Air Force clubs are membership associations, providing a variety of benefits, products and services for members and authorized guests.

Therefore, eligible personnel who decline membership will not receive full benefits, but may be authorized limited club usage on a pay-as-you-go basis. Some club activities, however, will only be open to club members.

Nonmember use

"Although eligible nonmembers may be authorized limited club usage, they should

not be subsidized by the membership, nor receive services and products at the expense or inconvenience of club members," said Black.

"One of the most important elements of club membership is that a member's club privileges, (such as) pricing, club access, benefits, etc., transcend those of nonmembers within the club environment. We are obligated to protect and defend these principles in keeping with our continued advocacy for providing enhanced membership value and benefits."

Who it affects

The surcharge does not apply to Air Force club members, their family members, and bona fide guests.

Bona fide guests are individuals who are not otherwise eligible for Air Force or other U.S. armed forces club membership and are expressly invited to the club event by a member.

Additionally, nonmember fees do not apply to visiting

military members possessing a valid club membership card, their families, and bona fide guests, according to reciprocal privileges granted to Air Force and other U.S. armed forces club members.

Individuals who are eligible for club membership and have declined are not considered bona fide guests.

Who pays

All eligible nonmembers must pay the established surcharge for themselves and their guests for club services and products if allowed to use the club by the installation commander.

Nonmember fees are per person and apply to each eligible nonmember and each guest of an eligible nonmember. A mandatory surcharge for eligible nonmembers will apply to brunch, lunch, dinner, special functions and other services determined locally.

Surcharges for eligible nonmembers at RAF Lakenheath are \$2 for lunch and \$3 for dinner, special events and brunch.